

Proceeding: In the Matter of 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review -- Amendment of Part of the ☒ Record 1 of 1
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I DO NOT BELIEVE THE CHANGES PROPOSED ARE THE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM OF TOO MANY CLASSES. I STRONGLY URGE THE FCC TO RETHINK THIS PROPOSAL. I BELIEVE THAT THE FOLLOWING SOLUTION CAN WORK: COMBINE THE NOVICE AND TECHNICIAN WRITTEN TEST ELEMENTS AND ELIMINATE THE NOVICE CLASS LICENSE. YOU WOULD THEN BE LEFT WITH A TOTAL OF 5 CLASSES. TECH, TECH PLUS, GENERAL, ADVANCED, AND EXTRA. I HAVE SPOKEN TO SEVERAL HAMS AND NONE THAT I HAVE SPOKEN WITH FEEL THAT THE CODE REQUIREMENTS SHOULD BE REDUCED FOR THE GENERAL, ADVANCED, EXTRA CLASSES.

I HAVE BEEN PRACTICING FOR MY 5 WPM CODE EXAM TO GAIN HF PRIVILEGES. AFTER THAT, I PLAN TO STUDY TO PASS MY 13 WPM CODE EXAM. AFTER THAT COMES THE ADVANCED CLASS WRITTEN EXAM. FINALLY, THE EXTRA CLASS EXAM AT 18 WPM. IF ANYTHING, MAKE THE EXTRA CLASS PRIVILEGES A BIT MORE APPEALING TO THE ADVANCED CLASS OPERATORS. MANY ADVANCED CLASS OPERATORS HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO UPGRADE TO THE EXTRA CLASS BECAUSE 150 KHZ MORE OPERATING ROOM IS NOT WORTH THE EXTRA HASSLE OF UPGRADING THE CODE AND STUDYING FOR THE WRITTEN EXAM. MAKE THAT GOAL MORE DESIRABLE TO PEOPLE.

ONE OTHER POINT ABOUT NOT REDUCING CODE REQUIREMENTS IS THE CITIZEN'S BAND (CB) EXAMPLE. CB BEGAN AS A LICENSED BAND. ONCE THE LICENSING PROCESS WAS ELIMINATED, ABUSE OF THE CB PRIVILEGES BY OPERATORS HAS GROWN EXPONENTIALLY. I DO NOT WANT THAT TO HAPPEN TO THE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE BANDS. I REALIZE THAT MANY PEOPLE ABUSE THE AMATEUR SERVICE HF BANDS NOW BY BROADCASTING MUSIC AND USING INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE. THINK ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF PEOPLE DID NOT NEED TO KNOW AS MUCH CODE - THINK CB. AS IT STANDS NOW, A MAJORITY OF THE AMATEUR OPERATOR POPULATION IS SELF-REGULATING, MEANING THERE ARE A LOT OF HONEST AMATEUR OPERATORS OUT THERE WHO FOLLOW THE RULES. DO NOT SPOIL THAT BY REDUCING THE CODE REQUIREMENTS. ONLY THOSE PEOPLE TRULY WANTING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE ARE LIKELY TO GO THE EXTRA MILE TO LEARN MORSE CODE AND THEN LEARN IT AT FASTER SPEEDS.

IN CONCLUSION, IT WOULD DETRIMENTAL TO THE QUALITY OF THE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE POPULATION TO REDUCE CODE AND WRITTEN REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE. I INVITE COMMENTS TO THIS LETTER DIRECTED TO RELKIN@CWNET.COM.

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